

1 WHAT IS CLAIM 1 IS:

2 1. A vehicle surroundings monitoring apparatus having a  
3 stereoscopic image detecting unit for detecting a stereoscopic  
4 image of solid objects around a self vehicle, an image processor  
5 for processing said image into a distance image and a plurality  
6 of micro-processors based on said distance image for recognizing  
7 said solid objects, comprising:

8 a wall surface detecting means for dividing positional  
9 data of said solid objects into groups and for detecting a wall  
10 surface formed along a boundary of a road based on said grouped  
11 positional data of said solid objects;

12 a wall surface model forming means for interconnecting  
13 a plurality of nodes and for forming a wall surface model based  
14 on said interconnected nodes to express an outline of said wall  
15 surface; and

16 a wall surface model correcting means for correcting  
17 said wall surface model based on said grouped positional data  
18 of said solid objects.

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20 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
21 said wall surface model correcting means comprises a  
22 means for applying a pattern matching to said grouped positional  
23 data to search a position of said wall surface corresponding to  
24 said respective nodes and a means for correcting coordinates of  
25 said nodes based on said position of said wall surface.

26  
27 3. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
28 said pattern matching uses a wall surface pattern

1 having such light coefficient as becoming large in the outside  
2 direction thereof.

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4 4. The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
5 said wall surface model correcting means comprises a  
6 means for correcting said coordinates of said corresponding nodes  
7 in the direction where said positional data of said solid objects  
8 partially exist, when said pattern matching detects no wall  
9 surface.

10  
11 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
12 said wall surface model correcting means comprises a  
13 means for correcting said coordinates of said respective nodes  
14 in the direction of bringing them close to a straight line  
15 connecting one adjacent node and the other adjacent node after  
16 said wall surface model is corrected based on said grouped  
17 positional data of said solid objects.

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